

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first suspension member;

a second suspension member having opposite first and second side surfaces and a through hole that extends between the first and second side surfaces, with a first frustoconical surface defining a first end of said through hole and a second frustoconical surface defining a second end of said through hole, ~~said first and second frustoconical surfaces converging toward a center of said second suspension member~~ said first frustoconical surface being angled so that imaginary lines extending from diametrically opposite portions of said first frustoconical surface intersect at a first location within said through hole and between said first and second side surfaces, said second frustoconical surface being angled so that imaginary lines extending from diametrically opposite portions of said second frustoconical surface intersect a second location within said through hole and between said first and second side surfaces, a cylindrical surface interposed between and connecting said first and second frustoconical surfaces, said cylindrical surface and defining a central portion of said through hole;

a socket connected with said first suspension member;

a one-piece stud having a first end portion and a second end portion;

said socket supporting said first end portion of said stud in said socket for pivotal movement relative to said socket;

said second end portion of said stud projecting from said socket and completely through said through hole in said second suspension member, said second end portion of said stud having a third frustoconical surface in engagement with said first frustoconical surface of said second suspension member, said third frustoconical surface being angled so that, when in engagement with said first frustoconical surface, imaginary lines extending from diametrically opposite portions of said third frustoconical surface intersect at a third location within said through hole of said second suspension member and between said first and second side surfaces; and

a fastener secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener having a fourth frustoconical surface in engagement with said second frustoconical surface of said second suspension member, said fourth frustoconical surface being angled so that, when in engagement with said second frustoconical surface, imaginary lines extending from diametrically opposite portions of said fourth frustoconical surface intersect at a fourth location within said through hole of said second suspension member and between said first and second side surfaces, said second end portion of said stud extending completely through said fastener and said fastener causing said first and third frustoconical surfaces to be

pressed together and causing said second and fourth frustoconical surfaces to be pressed together to secure said second suspension member relative to said second end portion of said stud;

said socket and said stud supporting said first suspension member for movement relative to said second suspension member.

Claim 2 (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first suspension member;

a second suspension member having a through hole with a first frustoconical surface defining a first end of said through hole and a second frustoconical surface defining a second end of said through hole, said first and second frustoconical surfaces converging toward a center of said second suspension member, a cylindrical surface interposed between said first and second frustoconical surfaces and defining a central portion of said through hole;

a socket connected with said first suspension member;

a one-piece stud having a first end portion and a second end portion;

said socket supporting said first end portion of said stud in said socket for pivotal movement relative to said socket;

said second end portion of said stud projecting from said socket and completely through said through hole, said second end portion of said stud having a third frustoconical

surface in engagement with said first frustoconical surface of
said second suspension member; and

a fastener secured to said second end portion of
said stud, said fastener having a fourth frustoconical surface
in engagement with said second frustoconical surface of said
second suspension member, said second end portion of said stud
extending completely through said fastener and said fastener
causing said first and third frustoconical surfaces to be
pressed together and causing said second and fourth
frustoconical surfaces to be pressed together to secure said
second suspension member relative to said second end portion
of said stud;

said socket and said stud supporting said first
suspension member for movement relative to said second
suspension member,

~~Apparatus as set forth in claim 1~~ wherein said stud
has a longitudinal central axis on which said third
frustoconical surface is centered, said third frustoconical
surface extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said
first and second frustoconical surfaces of said second
suspension member also extending at said first angle relative
to said axis.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) Apparatus as set forth
in claim 2 wherein said fourth frustoconical surface also
extends at said first angle relative to said axis when said
fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said third frustoconical surface extends at a 45 degree angle to said axis.

Claim 5 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said fastener is a nut and said second end portion of said stud has a threaded end portion for receiving said nut, said threaded end portion of said stud extending to a shoulder that forms an end of said third frustoconical surface.

Claim 6 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third frustoconical surface in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third frustoconical surface, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third frustoconical surface is in abutting engagement with said first frustoconical surface, said cylindrical surface of said second end portion including external threads for receiving said fastener, said external threads extending axially to said third frustoconical surface.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said stud has a longitudinal central axis on

which said third frustoconical surface is centered, said third frustoconical ~~outer~~ surface extending at a first angle relative to said axis, said first and second frustoconical surfaces also extending at said first angle relative to said axis, said fourth frustoconical surface also extending at said first angle to said axis when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud, said fastener being a nut and said second end portion of said stud having a threaded end portion for receiving said nut.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) Apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein said second end portion of said stud has a cylindrical portion extending from said third frustoconical surface in a direction away from said first end portion of said stud, said cylindrical portion having a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of said third frustoconical surface, said cylindrical portion of said second end portion of said stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to said cylindrical surface of said second suspension member when said third frustoconical surface is in abutting engagement with said first frustoconical surface.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second end portion of said stud includes a terminal end having a hexagonal configuration, said terminal end being located on a side of said fastener opposite said first end portion when said fastener is secured to said second end portion of said stud.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first frustoconical surface and said cylindrical surface converge with one another in said through hole of said second suspension member and wherein said second frustoconical surface and said cylindrical surface converge with one another in said through hole in said second suspension member.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) Apparatus of claim 10 wherein said cylindrical surface extends from said first frustoconical surface to said second frustoconical surface so that said first and second frustoconical surfaces and said cylindrical surface entirely form said through hole in said second suspension member.

Claim 12 (New) Apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first and third locations within said through hole of said second suspension member are identical locations and wherein said second and fourth locations within said through hole of said second suspension member are identical locations.